

Letter 12

BADGER/CHIARA RANCHES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BATTLE MOUNTAIN FIELD OFFICE

May 3, 2001

Pam Jarnecke, EIS Project Manager
Phoenix Project
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain Field Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820
775-635-4000

RE: Comment Letter for Phoenix Project (Final EIS Statement)

Dear Ms. Jarnecke:

- 12-1 [We appreciate this opportunity to make our comments on the Phoenix Project. We would appreciate it if our concerns were taken into consideration while making the final decisions for the mine expansion.
- 12-2 [Badger and Chiara Ranches have grazing permits, for cattle, in the Copper Canyon allotment. These ranches are owned and operated by our family. We can foresee some hardships to our small business with the construction and operation of the Phoenix Project.
- 12-3 [A main concern is the loss of grazing and permit (AUM) reduction because of fencing, land disturbance and reclamation. We feel that there are creative ways to work with the BLM and the mine to prevent loss of our livelihood.
- 12-4 [Stock water, in places the cattle habitually water, will be fenced in. Cattle will not be able to drink where they do now. We would like to have water sources included in the mine plan. This would, also, help to distribute livestock away from the mine roads and activity. They would be able to utilize the range and forage better.
- 12-5 [Air and water quality are a big concern. Our home is very close to the mine. We do not want our water quality to be compromised in any fashion and this goes for the air as well. Our family has lived in this area for four generations.
- 12-6 [Reclamation should be done in a timely manner and reopened as soon as possible. We see projects that have been closed years after mining has ended and they are still fenced out.

Responses to Letter 12

- 12-1 Comment noted.
- 12-2 Comment noted.
- 12-3 Comment noted. Mitigation measure S-2 in Section 3.3.4 of the Final EIS requires the development of a grazing/land management plan to address grazing issues. This mitigation measure has been revised to include coordination among the grazing permittee(s), the BLM, NDOW, and BMG in developing the plan.
- 12-4 Please refer to mitigation measure R-1 in Section 3.6.4 of the EIS, which requires development of stock water at three locations.
- 12-5 Comment noted.
- 12-6 As described in Section 2.4.21.1 of the EIS, BMG would reclaim completed project facilities concurrently with ongoing operations, to the extent reasonably possible. A proposed schedule showing anticipated completion dates for reclamation of individual project facilities is provided in Table 2-7 in Section 2.4.21.1 of the EIS.

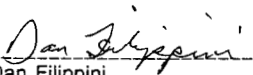
Letter 12 Continued

12-7

In closing, please take our concerns and comments into consideration, when making the final decision on the Phoenix Project construction and expansion. All of what happens with this project will have an impact on our business and our quality of life.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


Dan Filippini


Eddyann Filippini

Responses to Letter 12

12-7 Comment noted.